AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 27, lines 10-22, with the following amended paragraph:

Once the model is completed, it can be used in conjunction with one of several existing computer programs to narrow the number of compounds to be screened by the screening methods of the present invention. The most general of these is the DOCK™ program (UCSF Molecular Design Institute, 533 Parnassus Ave, U-64, Box 0446, San Francisco, California 94143-0446). In several of its variants it can screen databases of commercial and/or proprietary compounds for steric fit and rough electrostatic complementarity to the binding site. It has frequently been found that molecules that score well within DOCK™ have a better chance of being ligands. Another program that can be used is FLEXX™ (Tripos Inc., 1699 South Hanley Rd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63144-2913 (www.tripos.com)). This program, being significantly slower, is usually restricted to searches through smaller databases of compounds. The scoring scheme within FLEXX™ is more detailed and usually gives a better estimate of binding ability than does DOCK™. FLEXX™ is best used to confirm DOCK™ suggestions, or to examine libraries of compounds that are generated combinatorially from known ligands or templates.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 25, to page 43, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Example 3. Receptor Activation Assay

Receptor activation analysis is performed by seeding the HEK293/CRE-LUC/pIRESneo/ $hCRF_2R$ cells of Example 1 into PACKARD VIEW PLATE-96™ (Packard Inc., CA). Cells are seeded in DMEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum, penicillin/streptomycin solution, L-glutamine, and non-essential amino acid at 37°C in a 5% carbon dioxide/95% air atmosphere and incubated overnight. The medium is then removed and replaced with DMEM (Life Technologies, Rockville, MD) containing

0.01% bovine albumin fraction V (SIGMA, St. Louis, MO) containing the compound of interest. The cells are then incubated for four hours at 37°C in a 5% carbon dioxide/95% air atmosphere after which the medium is removed and the cells are washed twice with Hanks Balanced Salt Solution (Life Technologies, Rockville, MD). Lysis Reagent (Promega Inc., Madison, WI) is then added to the washed cells and the cells are incubated for 20 minutes at 37°C in a 5% carbon dioxide/95% air atmosphere. The cells are then placed at -80°C for 20 minutes followed by a 20 minute incubation at 37°C in a 5% carbon dioxide/95% air atmosphere. After this incubation, ~~Luciferase~~ LUCIFERASE ASSAY BUFFER^{RTM} ~~Assay Buffer~~ and ~~Luciferase~~ LUCIFERASE ASSAY SUBSTRATE^{RTM} ~~Assay Substrate~~ (Promega Inc., Madison, WI) are added to the cell lysates and luciferase activity quantitated using a luminometer. Relative activity of a compound is evaluated by comparing the increase following exposure to compound to the level of luciferase in HEK cells which contain the CRE-LUC construct without the $hCRF_2R$ following exposure to compound. Specificity of response is also checked by evaluating luciferase response of $hCRF_2R$ /CRE-LUC HEK cells to compound in the presence and absence of a 10-fold excess of $hCRF_2R$ antagonist.